

Agenda Item: Item 3
Meeting Date: August 28, 2007

Lead Scientist Report

Scientific Coordination

1. IEP Coordinators and Agency Directors have approved the position description and reporting relationships for the IEP Lead Scientist. We will be proceeding to staff this position as soon as possible. We will be looking for a talented scientist with strong leadership skills.
2. The Science Program review of Phase 1 DRMS report should be available to the ISB a few days before the meeting for their commentary. We will not be making a specific presentation to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on this report. Jeff Mount and Michael Healey, as science advisors to the Task Force, will brief the Task Force on the content of the report. See DRMS staff report for more details.
3. We have engaged a team of experts to conduct assessments of Visions for the Delta. This team held a workshop on August 8 and 9 to work out an assessment methodology and will conduct assessments of Visions mainly electronically. Michael Healey has consulted with John Kirlin to identify the Visions that the team should tackle first.

Scientific Communication

1. The Lead Scientist has redrafted the ecosystem context memo for the Blue Ribbon Task Force. He presented the executive summary with ecosystem principles at their meeting on July 19. This presentation, which was made in conjunction with Carl Wilcox, Stuart Siegel, Jeff Mount and Jon Burau, was very well received by the Task Force. The ecosystem context memo has been distributed to several ISB members and Science Program staff for comment.
2. We have been working to assemble a package of material on drinking water quality issues for the Task Force. Our special advisor on water quality, Dr. Philip Singer, has agreed to prepare an op-ed piece on drinking water quality for public distribution. Drinking water quality was discussed briefly at the Task Force meeting on July 20 but did not get the thorough examination that we had hoped.

3. Our report on the Variable Delta workshop is now posted on the Science Program web page and was emailed to the ISB. On August 22 we held a one day workshop to explore the scientific issues raised by building an isolated facility (canal or pipeline) to convey Sacramento River water to the export pumps. We are in the process of writing up the report on that workshop and planning a companion workshop to explore science issues raised by other forms of conveyance (planned for Sept 11).
4. The *State of Science for the Bay-Delta System* report is making progress. Second drafts of chapters are being submitted and the lead authors met to begin development of a synthesis chapter. The Editorial Board will be meeting in mid-September to develop an executive summary. The executive summary is expected to be distributed at the end of September.
5. The Lead Scientist will deliver a plenary paper on application of landscape ecology to delta and estuary conservation planning at the upcoming American Fisheries Society meeting and will chair a panel session on salmon conservation (Sept 2 – 6 in San Francisco).

Scientific Support

1. We have identified the topic selection panel for our 2007 PSP and they will meet August 27. However, we have delayed any further action on the PSP until the state budget is passed and we know that we have the funds to proceed.

Program Building

Program Staff

The Science Program has announced several staff changes in the past month. Rebecca Fris has been named the Acting Program Manager II for the Science Program. Ladd Lougee is filling in as the acting secondary supervisor that Rebecca previously filled. Darcy Jones has taken over as managing editor of SOSBDS. Looking to the future, we hope to add additional technical staff as well as additional management and administrative staff to take some of the contracting load off technical staff.

Individual Staff Activities

As we did at the last two ISB meetings, we would like to highlight the work of several staff members to help the ISB get to know the people behind the program.

Jill McGee is the Executive Secretary to the Science Program Deputy Director and is responsible for all the administrative activities surrounding each ISB meeting. She's been with the program almost two years and enjoys working with the variety of scientists and technical types involved in the program. Her previous position of 16 years was with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (formerly CYA).

Shemeles Ayalew is the Science Program database manager. He helps in the development and management of the Science Program database to track science activities and projects, and assures that project deliverables are received and catalogued electronically. Previously he worked for the California Student Aid Commission and the California Department of Transportation. He graduated from California State University of Sacramento with a BA degree in Economics and a special minor in Smart Growth Urban Planning.

Matt Nobriga is the Science Program's Environmental Water Account Coordinator assuming responsibility for coordinating both the EWA and Tier 3 Review Panels and the Science Program liaison to the IEP POD Management Team. Prior to joining the Science Program, he was a long-time researcher with the IEP where he was involved in studies of salmon in Yolo Bypass, fish community ecology in the Delta's shallow-water habitats, particle tracking modeling studies and several descriptive studies of delta smelt biology and entrainment risk. He also represented the Department of Water Resources on the IEP and POD management teams and the Delta Smelt Working Group. Matt received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Stanislaus State University and his Master of Science degree in Biology from Sacramento State University.

Program Contact:

Michael Healey
Lead Scientist
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
mhealey@calwater.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 445-0463